

January 5, 2002

Connecticut School Transportation Association (COSTA), working in partnership with the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection, has developed an anti-idling policy. For the health of our children, and for compliance with the law, COSTA strongly urges its members to immediately implement this policy.

- 1) Drivers will shut off buses immediately on reaching their locations; buses will not idle while waiting for passengers. This rule applies whether you are providing home-to-school, activity, or charter transportation.***
- 2) During morning start-up, buses will idle no longer than necessary to bring them to the proper operating temperature and to defrost all windows.*

*Exceptions to the policy may be made when the air temperature is below 20 degrees, and when it is necessary to run the engine in order to operate required safety equipment or to maintain a safe environment for student passengers with special health needs.*

We urge all school bus carriers to adhere to this policy for the following reasons:

- Emissions from diesel engines are significant sources of nitrogen oxides (NOx) and fine particulate matter (PM). NOx emissions contribute to Connecticut's ground-level ozone problem, while fine particulate matter can be inhaled deep into the lungs. These pollutants can cause significant, adverse, and lifelong health-effects to children.
- Emissions from idling school buses are emitted at ground level where children may inhale them or the emissions may be drawn into a school's ventilation system.
- The elimination of air pollutant emissions is all of our responsibility, and we all want to contribute to this important endeavor.

Subsection 22a-174-18(a) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies limits the idle time of all vehicles under normal circumstances to three consecutive minutes. While we cannot control unnecessary idling by other motorists in and around school parking lots, we can do our part to reduce emissions by instructing our drivers to turn off their buses as soon as possible upon reaching their destination, and to not restart them until ready to resume travel.



State of Connecticut  
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**COSTA**

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Arthur J. Rocque, Commissioner

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Robin Leeds, Executive Director